



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 900  
Portland, OR 97232

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October 6, 2009

**OREGON BULLETIN NO. OR-210-2009-1**

**SUBJECT:** Practice Implementation Reminder

**EXPIRATION DATE:** September 30, 2009.

This is a reminder that when planning, designing or overseeing construction of a conservation practice the requirements for the design as contained in Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide must be adhered to. In the vast majority of cases we are doing this but there is always room for improvement and this would be one of those areas.

In the course of implementing conservation practices there are often opportunities to compromise on our standards. Reasons such as:

- The landowner doesn't want to "gold plate" the practice by meeting our requirements and insist that we build it to his/her standard(s) instead of ours.
- The landowner doesn't have enough money to construct the practice in compliance with our standards so he/she ask to cut corners on the design and construction.
- The representative from the permitting agency tells us to design the practice a certain way that, in their opinion, will better meet the needs of a certain species but that does not meet our standards.
- We didn't realize that our practice standards apply to all Title XII programs, including CSP.
- We come out to the site to do an inspection of the completed work and the contractor has built the practice out of compliance with the drawings and our standard(s) and is pressuring us to accept the work. Instead of having the contractor tear out the completed work and re-do according to our standards, we accept the work.

An actual example of the situation described by the last bullet happened when a contractor was building a concrete, below ground waste holding tank and called the NRCS representative to inspect the steel in the lid prior to concrete placement. When the NRCS inspector came out to the site he noticed that the steel for the slot was configured at a 90° angle to the design. In this case the inspector allowed the concrete placement to continue without requiring the contractor to re-tie the steel in the correct configuration prior to concrete placement.

If, in the course of requiring a designer or contractor to adhere to our practice standards, you are getting a level of resistance that you aren't comfortable with, or if you simply desire a second opinion, please don't hesitate to call any of the state specialists, Russ Hatz or Dave Dishman for support.

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DAVE DISHMAN  
State Conservation Engineer

RUSS HATZ  
State Resource Conservationist

cc via website:

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